WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrical connector comprising:

a plurality of conductive signal contacts arrayed in a first direction for contacting with signal contacts of a counterpart connector;

a conductive ground plate comprising a plurality of first ground contacts arrayed in said first direction for contacting with second ground contacts of the counterpart connector, and a joining portion joining said first ground contacts together;

an insulator retaining said first signal contacts and said ground plate so as to be spaced apart from each other;

a conductive shell formed separately from said ground plate and covering said insulator; and

a connection structure electrically connecting said joining portion to said shell, said connection structure comprising a first connection piece extending from a part of said joining portion in the same direction as each of said first ground contacts in a second direction perpendicular to said first direction, and contacting with said shell.

2. An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein each of said first ground contacts is substantially parallel to said first connection piece.

3. An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein said ground plate comprises a ground terminal extending from said joining portion in a direction opposite to that of said first connection piece in said second direction.

4. An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein said first connection piece has springiness and is pressed against said shell by said springiness.

5. An electrical connector according to claim 4, wherein said first connection piece is pressed against said shell in a third direction perpendicular

to said first and second directions.

6. An electrical connector according to claim 4, wherein said first connection piece is pressed against said shell in said first direction.

7. An electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein said connection structure comprises a second connection piece extending from said shell in said second direction and contacting with said first connection piece.

8. An electrical connector according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said first and second connection pieces has a dowel that is pressed against the other of said first and second connection pieces.

9. An electrical connector according to claim 7, wherein said first and second connection pieces engage with each other in said second direction.

10. An electrical connector according to claim 9, wherein said ground plate and said shell are fitted to said insulator from mutually opposite sides in said second direction.

11. An electrical connector according to claim 9, wherein said ground plate and said shell are fitted to said insulator from the same side in said second direction.

12. An electrical connector comprising:

a plurality of signal contacts;

a ground plate;

an insulator retaining said signal contacts and said ground plate; and

a shell covering said insulator,

wherein said shell has an engaging portion and said ground plate has a to-be-engaged portion, and wherein said shell is mounted to said insulator in an insert direction of a counterpart connector into said connector and said ground plate is mounted to said insulator in a direction opposite to said insert direction so that said engaging portion and said to-be-engaged portion engage with each other.

13. An electrical connector according to claim 12, wherein said ground plate has a spring portion and said to-be-engaged portion is formed at said spring portion so that said shell and said ground plate are connected to each other through engagement between said engaging portion and said to-be-engaged portion.

14. An electrical connector according to claim 12, wherein said ground plate comprises a plurality of ground contacts, and said ground contacts are connected to a ground shell of said counterpart connector.

15. An electrical connector according to claim 12, wherein said engaging portion has a lock portion that locks connection to said counterpart connector.